Mrs. Kathy Weber
108 Beacon Road
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Dear Kathy,

Wonderful your book is doing so well! Congratulations! Your maternal grandfather, who was no mean essayist, would be proud!

From the FBI's backlog there is not much you can be except be exasperated.

What you sent me does not include any references to notrizations of or proofs of death. If you've not done that be sure to get it on file and as you have, always use the number they've assigned. I had Toller's name confused with that or another playright but the Times will provide his obit and Sidney's if you do not have a copy.

You misunderstood me. I did not suggest a search under other nemes. Rather I said to be sure the FBI includes all its "see" references. Those are references to Sidney in documents of which he is not the subject. See under, etc.

With this backlog I think it is worth taking the time to file those requests at the field offices. They do not have such backlogs and may respond fairly promptly. Comparatively, anyway!

It is proper that the FBI protect the privacy of others but that privacy ends when life ends. You may be well advised if you do any searchings, as in the Times, which is indexed (or better if you have a friend there who can get copies from their morgue), to include while you are at it all those you know Sidney had any association with in whom the FBI could have had an interest.

You say Sidney was active in movies about the time of the Hollywood Ten. If he had any connection with them or with that case knew that one Edward Dmytryk was a finko amongst them. That SOB stole most of what I'd collected for a book on those UnAmericans! He came with a man with whom I'd worked on the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, a man I trusted, to get what they could use in their defense. It was never returned. Years later, when I located him through one of the others, he claimed to have no recollection or knowledge.

The one name I remember that Sidney mentioned having any movie connection with is Walter Wanger. He was then a top producer.

But if Sidney was in any way associated with any of the Ten then the see references are important to get. You can be sure the FBI had quite a few symbol informers (who worked for the FBI and not mere sources) in whose reports Sidney might have figured.

That reminds me: I think I met him through an editor, later a medical writer and editor, named Allan Chase. Chase then worked for the magazine CLICK, then officed in Phila. and later in NYC. Another possible "see" source. Last I saw Allan he lived in the upper west side, about 100 and Broadway.

Did you know Sidney produced the MacBeath that won an Emmy for NBC-TV? The dir-

tor got the Emmy.

Do not refer to "files." Refer to records. Not even documents because records have other forms, like photos and tapes. And if you have not mentioned including the "see" references be sure to includo that in some letter, as if you send any obits. Martha Dodd and Alfred K. Stern, for example, are both dead. I think I told you enough of that story. The FBI had ample reason to have exhaustive files on her. She was bedding all the prominent Nazis she could when he father was ambrassdor. He was a respected historian.

I remember Sidney met with Howard Fast in whom there years earlier had been an FBI interest. Sidney was trying to get the rights to some of Fast's writings he did not get. He also met with the man who produced The March of Time (magazine if that is not what you know about, for Time.). DeRochemond, something like that. He was gay and the FBI had a sick interest in them. Aside from politics, real and imagined.

If for no other reason the FBI would probably have a London file on Burdberg because she introduced my first Whitewash to Collins and the stinker they had do a peer review was working for British intelligence and was in touch, at least, with the LEGAT in the Embassy. She was, as I remember what Sidney told me, the "brains" of Sir Arthus Rank, well-known producer.

He got Gordon Harbord to act as my agent in London.

As best I recall the name, he also introduced that book to Fischer AG, then a major German publisher, through Stephanie Huntziger. Their mail to me never reached me (they wanted to do the book) nor did the ms. when they mailed in back. In those days the FBI was intercepting foreign mail for the CIA. Came out in the Church committee hearings.

He had contacts in Yogoslavia, in which the FBI and CIA were interested. He told me of producing a film there.

And I know so little of his life, only what came up in conversation that I can recall.

With 900 pages the given total I believe that may be of records on him only, with no "see" references." Of which they should be quite a few.

I do encourage you to perfect the record to the degree possible before they get to processing. The page number probably comes from the records listed in his name in HQ central files. Not only do I believe that the FBI in general avoids those when it can, you gave it what it can use as an excuse in referring to "files." I think that when you make this clear, that you want everything, you should also say that you understand that may increase the cost and you'll pay that increased cost. They will not cheat you on that because they'll assume you can count.

This is a day that has no religious meaning to me but is one that should tell us to keep hope up and to keep trying.

love, Harold